



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

July 3, 2013

The Honorable Scott Walker  
Governor  
State of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Governor Walker:

This is in response to your letter of June 25, 2013, and the memorandum of June 21, 2013, from the Wisconsin State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Department of Agriculture (USDA). Both documents requested primary county disaster designations for 24 Wisconsin counties due to losses caused by the combined effects of excessive rain, excessive snow, and multiple periods of thawing and refreezing, resulting in winterkill that occurred during the period of January 1, through May 21, 2013. Those counties are:

Brown	Eau Claire	Manitowoc	Pierce
Buffalo	Fond du Lac	Marathon	Shawano
Calumet	Green Lake	Marinette	Sheboygan
Chippewa	Kewaunee	Oconto	Trempealeau
Clark	Langlade	Outagamie	Washington
Dodge	Lincoln	Ozaukee	Waupaca

USDA reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating all 24 counties named above, as primary natural disaster areas.

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your State are named as contiguous disaster counties. Those counties are:

Barron	Forest	Milwaukee	St. Croix
Columbia	Jackson	Oneida	Taylor
Dane	Jefferson	Pepin	Waukesha
Door	La Crosse	Portage	Waushara
Dunn	Marquette	Price	Winnebago
Florence	Menominee	Rusk	Wood

The Honorable Scott Walker

Page 2

In addition, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in adjacent States are named as contiguous disaster areas. Those States, counties, and numbers are:

**Michigan** (2)

Dickinson Menominee

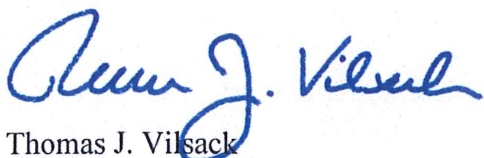
**Minnesota** (5)

Dakota Goodhue Wabasha Washington Winona

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm, and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary